

REMARKS

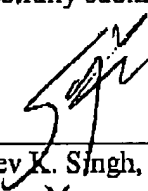
Claims 5, 9, 10, 28 and 116, have been amended as to matter of form without introducing any new subject matter. In this manner, claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 28-30, 32, 33, 37, 38, 116 and 131 are pending in the present application. The status of each claim in this paper reflect the current status relative to the previously-filed February 2, 2005 Response. On February 2, 2005, the Applicants filed a Response to an Office Action mailed on November 2, 2004, fully addressing any issues then raised by the Examiner. The Applicants file herewith this Preliminary Amendment to the February 2, 2005, Response to address some minor issues, such as claim dependencies.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested, based on the February 2, 2005 Response and this Preliminary Amendment.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (713) 934-4089 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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